

Message Text

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ACTION EUR-12

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TO SECSTATE WASHDC 004

INFO AMEMBASSY BONN

AMEMBASSY LONDON

AMEMBASSY MOSCOW

AMEMBASSY PARIS

USMISSION NATO

C O N F I D E N T I A L USBERLIN 1901

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PGOV, PFOR, WB, GW, UR

SUBJECT: BERLIN LEADERSHIP ON SCHMIDT VISIT TO MOSCOW

1. IN LAST FEW DAYS, BERLIN LEADERSHIP HAS ECHOED STRONG LINE TAKEN IN BONN BY GENSCHER AND OTHERS ON NEED TO RESPECT BERLIN'S INTERESTS DURING FORTHCOMING SCHMIDT VISIT TO MOSCOW. IN COURSE OF AMBASSADOR'S CALL OCTOBER 21, GOVERNING MAYOR SCHUETZ SAID HE EXPECTED NO AGREEMENTS TO BE SIGNED DURING SCHMIDT'S FORTHCOMING VISIT TO MOSCOW UNLESS CONCRETE STEPS FOR PRACTICAL INCLUSION OF BERLIN WERE TAKEN. GENERAL CLAUSE IN PROSPECTIVE AGREEMENTS TO EFFECT THAT BERLIN WOULD OR COULD BE INCLUDED AS PRESCRIBED IN QA WOULD BE INSUFFICIENT. SCHUETZ SAID THAT INNER-GERMAN SPORTS AGREEMENT, WHICH FRG SIDE REFUSED TO SIGN UNTIL SPECIFIC PROGRAM HAD BEEN DRAWN UP TO INCLUDE BERLIN TEAMS AND SITES, AFFORDED WORKABLE MODEL THAT COULD BE PROFITABLY APPLIED TO PROSPECTIVE FRG-SOVIET CULTURAL AND SCIENTIFIC AND TECHNICAL EXCHANGE AGREEMENTS. WITH REGARD TO FRG-GDR TALKS, GOVERNING MAYOR RESTATED
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POSITION THAT GDR SHOULD BE REQUIRED TO RESCIND CURRENCY-

EXCHANGE INCREASES AS WELL AS TO FULFILL EXISTING OBLIGATIONS ON TRANSIT-ROAD MAINTENANCE BEFORE NEGOTIATIONS BEGIN ON INNER-GERMAN SWING ARRANGEMENT. FRG SHOULD THEN OBTAIN FRESH CONCESSIONS IN EXCHANGE FOR EXTENSION OF SWING AND OTHER COMMERCIAL BENEFITS.

2. IN INTERVIEW IN OCTOBER 21 BILDZEITUNG (SPRINGER), GOVERNING MAYOR SIMILARLY TOOK STRONG LINE IN FAVOR OF MEANINGFUL INCLUSION OF BERLIN IN FRG AGREEMENTS WITH SOVIET UNION. HE SAID THAT BONN'S RELATIONS WITH SOVIET UNION AND GDR COULD PROGRESS ONLY IF BERLIN WERE REMOVED AS OBJECT OF DISPUTE. WARNING THAT TOO MUCH SHOULD NOT BE EXPECTED OF SCHMIDT VISIT, SCHUETZ SAID THAT HE EXPECTED BOTH MAJOR AND MINOR DIFFICULTIES OVER BERLINE TO PERSIST.

3. SIMILARLY, IN OCTOBER 19 INTERVIEW WITH SENDER FREIES BERLIN, FRG PLENIPOTENTIARY SPANGENBERG ECHOED LINE THAT SOVIETS WOULD ACHIEVE LITTLE DURING SCHMIDT VISIT UNLESS AGREEMENTS REGARDING BERLIN WERE RESPECTED EMPHASIZING THEME OF BERLIN AS TOUCHSTONE OF DETENTE, SPANGENBERG EXPRESSED HOPE THAT SOVIET UNION UNDERSTOOD THERE COULD BE NO RELAXATION OF TENSIONS IN EUROPE IF BERLIN WERE TO REMAIN CONSTANT BONE OF CONTENTION, EVEN IN SMALL MATTERS, SPANGENBERG FURTHER WARNED GDR THAT RECISION OF UNILATERAL CURRENCY-EXCHANGE REGULATIONS WAS PRECONDITION FOR PROGRESS IN INNER-GERMAN COMMERCIAL NEGOTIATIONS.SELIGMANN

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